

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
Summary of Approved “Scopes of Work” for Work Groups
February 2006

Governor Schwarzenegger established the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley by Executive Order in June 2005 to address the economic challenges in the eight counties that comprise the San Joaquin Valley region (Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties). The Partnership Board is composed of 26 individuals including eight members of the Governor’s Cabinet, nine local elected officials, and nine civic leaders. The Partnership is required to develop a Strategic Action Proposal by November 2006 to improve the future economic well-being of the San Joaquin Valley. To accomplish this work, the Partnership Board established nine Work Groups and approved the following Scopes of Work for each focus topic. The purpose of this Summary is to provide an overview of the full breadth of work proposed for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

Economic Development

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development

- Develop the region’s “knowledge infrastructure” (network of specialized experts) to provide technical and business expertise for new firm formation.
- Create an Environmental Technology Investment Fund.
- Identify opportunities to develop and launch incubators and research parks.
- Recognize the importance and relationship of transportation improvements and human capital (workforce development) for other economic development opportunities.
- Consider economic opportunities presented by region’s arts and culture assets.
- Consider development of a regional marketing program.

Competitiveness of Target Industries

- Identify 3-5 target industries and related international trade opportunities.
- Identify emerging industries and opportunities for economic development.
- Develop region-wide industry networks connected to target industries.
- Identify top opportunities / challenges and develop industry-driven action plans.
- Analyze economic opportunities related to neighbor regions.

Infrastructure and Incentive Programs

- Develop parameters of “best practices” infrastructure investment and incentive programs.
- Evaluate existing tools and programs offered by the state and federal governments relative to “best practices” and develop recommendations for the most efficient and effective use of public resources.
- Develop an action plan to modify, eliminate and/or create the infrastructure investment and incentive programs most needed in the region. Consider a region-wide “investment zone.”

Renewable Energy

- Join forces with the Federal Interagency Task Force’s “Clean Air / Clean Energy” work group.
- Conduct an audit of renewable energy programs and experts in the region to assemble a leadership team.
- Review the relevant March 2003 Great Valley Center publication and advance the recommendations in the report: (a) craft a regional strategy; (b) encourage market development; (c) streamline local planning and permit processes; (d) provide capital incentives; and (e) influence state policy.

Higher Education and Workforce Development

Vocational Training

- Work with the community college system, industry leaders, local workforce investment boards, and state agencies to develop a comprehensive plan to expand the region's vocational training capacity in high-demand occupations with living wages and "career ladders" that meet employer needs. Propose actions to ensure community college programs are effectively coordinated.
- Develop and implement pilot projects that can be used as demonstrations to quickly accelerate the availability of vocational training programs.

Local Workforce Investment Agencies

- Develop a process for identifying and evaluating employer demands throughout the region.
- Identify current utilization of training funds and assess relationship to employer demands.
- Identify regional workforce development opportunities and align workforce training investments with economic development targeted industries.
- Work with state agencies, California Workforce Investment Board, Department of Labor, and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) in the region to identify system bottlenecks and inefficiencies that are restricting workforce development efforts, including standards for training providers.
- Develop creative strategies to resolve those issues and improve overall effectiveness.

College Degree Attainment Rates

- Leverage the work of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium and participating institutions to develop a college-going culture in the region.

Access to Baccalaureate Education

- Identify gaps in access to baccalaureate education in underserved parts of the region.
- Conduct market assessments to determine need for expanded baccalaureate programs.
- Work with education, industry and state agencies to develop creative plans to fill the gaps, including maximum leverage of distance learning opportunities.

Health Services and Medical Education

- Create a consensus with area stakeholders and state agencies around a comprehensive, integrated strategy to meet the healthcare worker shortage in the region.

Public Outreach

- Develop an action plan for outreach to make education and workforce preparation opportunities available to residents and widely accessible at the grassroots level.

K-12 Education

- Establish a high-level work group of the eight county superintendents of education for the purpose of identifying common challenges, recommending shared actions, and engaging around a set of state strategies to improve low-performing schools.
- Identify "best practices" within the San Joaquin Valley and assess potential for broader application and deployment.
- Provide updated achievement data for the region based on newly-released test results of California Standards Tests and school rankings by the Academic Performance Index and Adequate Yearly Progress assessments.
- Facilitate a series of roundtable discussions with local education leaders and the Secretary of Education to encourage a dialogue about local policy priorities and solutions to the challenges facing K-12 public schools in the region.

Transportation

- Monitor and foster coordination of activities among the Highway 99 Task Force, Caltrans Highway 99 Master Plan and Business Plan, and interstate status negotiations.
- Review and comment, and recommend to the Governor the Highway 99 Business Plan for safety and capacity improvements (being led by a jointly-coordinated effort by the Great Valley Center and Caltrans).
- Review and oversee the content and status of negotiations regarding interstate designation for Highway 99.
- Develop a model, using commercial activity and improved amenities and facilities at rest stops (including advanced telecommunications), to increase tourism in the region as an economic development strategy,
- Identify other regional transportation priorities for consideration such as east-west route enhancements, airports and ports, and other modes of transportation, including high-speed rail. (Focus on regional transportation needs, not local streets and roads.)
- Identify and recommend statutory changes which can best assist in the development of an overall regional transportation plan.

Land Use, Agriculture and Housing

- Develop a macro-level concept plan for the San Joaquin Valley by bringing together stakeholders and existing efforts / resources to develop a strategy for integrating related parts of a complex system into a cohesive model for the region. (Great Valley Center will convene a series of workshops with interested groups and stakeholders to develop a plan for integration of local priorities, housing goals, land and natural resources GIS data such as the “Great Places” program and UPlan Model, and existing local general plans.) Consider the fiscal implications for local government related to land use scenarios. Encourage and support a coordinated Regional Blueprint Plan application and program implementation.
- Develop principles, guidelines and investment incentives for landowners, developers and local governments to coordinate their actions on a regional basis.
- Identify legislative and regulatory issues, which if changed or amended, could lead to better, more consistent and predictable outcomes for communities, landowners and investors. (Resources Agency will provide an overview of legislative and regulatory issues.)
- Consider reorganization or consolidation strategies that would aid the region in greater cohesion and collaboration for large-scale regional issues.
- Provide the mechanism for greater availability and use of spatial data by state and local agencies, stakeholders and the public. (ICE at UC Davis and its partners will design a data base for CEQA documents to monitor and assess cumulative impacts of land use changes and development.)
- Ensure the coordination of regional and state agencies to provide the greatest level of efficiency and accomplishment.

Air Quality and Environmental Protection

- Evaluate, recommend and implement alternative paths to generate funding to invest in new research and technology to accelerate deployment of emission-reducing technologies.
- Evaluate, prioritize and recommend strategies to reduce emissions from on-road and off-road mobile sources.
- Evaluate, recommend and implement strategies to reduce emissions from stationary sources.
- Coordinate with the Land Use, Agriculture and Housing and Transportation Work Groups to evaluate, recommend and implement land use planning with a view to mitigate air quality impacts.
- Evaluate and recommend changes in governmental oversight to ensure a unified approach to implementation of recommended strategic plan.
- Explore and recommend strategies for widespread adoption of renewable energy and biofuels in the San Joaquin Valley to enhance ongoing air quality improvement strategies.
- Explore major transportation modes with respect to reducing air emissions (such as expanded rail service versus truck transportation for bulk commodities and products).

Water Quality, Supply and Reliability and Energy

- Survey all relevant state, federal and local agencies, entities and individuals regarding existing needs, water projects and institutional barriers. Utilize the information in DWR Bulletin 160 and coordinate all activities with the San Joaquin Valley Regional Water Plan being developed.
- Organize survey information into a database to catalogue water-related needs: (a) water supply; (b) water quality; (c) flood control; and (d) environmental enhancement.
- Delineate legal and institutional barriers to meeting regional water-related needs.
- Develop a Water Master Plan and Business Plan, including a focus on flood control.
- Develop a strategic plan for energy supply, alternative renewable resources, and efficiencies, beginning with the California Energy Commission Integrated Energy Policy Report.

Health and Human Services

- Identify and evaluate health care coverage and access in the San Joaquin Valley and identify related workforce issues.
- Develop new strategies for health coverage targeted at regional residents.
- Work with regional partnerships to enhance outreach for the Healthy Kids programs and other children's health insurance incentives.
- Work with counties to develop regional plans to utilize Proposition 63 funds.
- Work with children's health organizations and education stakeholders to develop urban-rural partnerships on obesity prevention.

Technology and Advanced Telecommunications

- Work with the CPUC to develop accurate maps that reflect actual existence of high-speed broadband access.
- Develop an action plan to provide at last one mode of affordable, universal high-speed broadband access to all unserved areas of the region (based on reviewing and considering recommendations of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Rural Telecommunications).
- Develop standards for high school technology literacy and ensure all graduating students achieve such proficiency.
- Identify innovative models that are replicable in communities throughout the region to provide public access and community development using technology.
- Identify and/or create business services that can be used to strengthen and grow home-based businesses in rural areas in order to increase the demand side of telecommunications access by growing small businesses, increase wealth and generate jobs.